IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A method of controlling the audio output of a first and at least one second device capable of producing sound, which devices (1a, 1b, ...) are capable of exchanging information with a control unit (3), the method comprising the steps of:

- the control unit gathering sound status information (I) on at least the second devices;
- the first device, prior to increasing its sound production, submitting a sound production request (R) to the control unit;
- the control unit, in response to the request, allocating a sound share (S) to the first device; and
- the first device producing sound in accordance with the allocated sound share, wherein the sound status information (I) comprises the volume of the sound produced by the respective device, and wherein the sound share (S) involves a maximum permitted sound volume.

2. (original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the sound status information further comprises at least one of an ambient noise level, at least one user profile and a frequency range.

3. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 1~~ or 2~~, wherein the sound share further involves at least one of a time duration and a frequency range.

4. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 1~~, 2 or 3~~, wherein the first device uses an alternative output when the allocated sound share is insufficient, the alternative output preferably involving vibrations and/or light.

5. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any of the preceding Claims~~claim 1, wherein at least one device may have a priority status, and wherein an allocated sound share may be adjusted in response to a sound request from a device having priority status.

6. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any of the preceding Claims~~claim 1, wherein the devices are connected by a communications network, preferably a wireless communications network.

7. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any of the preceding Claims~~claim 1, wherein each device is provided with an individual control unit.

8. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any of the preceding Claims~~claim 1, wherein user preferences are entered in the control unit (3) via a user interface.

9. (currently amended) A system for use in the method according to ~~any of the preceding Claims~~claim 1, the system (50) comprising a first and at least one second device capable of producing sound, which devices (1a, 1b, ...) are capable of exchanging information with a control unit (3), the system being arranged for:

- the control unit gathering sound status information (I) on at least the second devices;
- the first device, prior to increasing its sound production, submitting a sound production request (R) to the control unit;
- the control unit, in response to the request, allocating a sound share (S) to the first devide; and
- the first device producing sound in accordance with the allocated sound share, wherein the sound status information (I) comprises the volume of the sound produced by the respective device, and wherein the sound share (S) involves a maximum permitted sound volume.

10. (currently amended) A control unit (3) for use in the method according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 8~~claim 1, the control unit comprising a processor (31), a memory (32) associated with the

processor and a network adapter (33), wherein the processor is programmed for allocating sound shares (S) to devices in response to sound requests.

11. (original) The control unit according to Claim 10, wherein the processor is additionally programmed for maintaining a device status table (51) and a user profiles table (52), and a sound shares allocation table (53).

12. (currently amended) A software program for use in the control unit according to Claim 10~~ or 11~~.

13. (original) A data carrier comprising the software program according to Claim 12.